

prevent another attack from occurring on American soil. But last week's London bombings remind us that we are still in the middle of a fierce battle. Our safety depends on our intelligence and law enforcement officials having the tools they need to track terrorists and to prevent terrorism, at home and abroad. Indeed, this is not the time to let down our guard.

□ 1030

SUPPORT THE FLAKE-BLUMENAUER AMENDMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER LOCK AND DAM EXPANSION IS JUSTIFIED

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we heard earlier today that there is a need to have a massive investment in the lock system in the Mississippi River to avoid having product move up and down in trucks. That is not the issue.

The problem that we are facing now is that more and more of the grain and other agricultural product are being shipped by truck and rail because it needs to get to locations not served by the Mississippi River system. This has been shown by the Congressional Research Service and the National Academy of Science.

The bill that is coming before us for a vote next week would be the Nation's most expensive waterway project and would siphon off 10 to 15 percent of all core construction funding for years, perhaps decades, to come, for an area where the barge traffic is actually going down.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the amendment that the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and I are offering that would allow the project to go forward only if the minimum standards that make it economically viable are, in fact, met over the next 3 years.

TAXES AND BUDGET

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, since President Bush took office in January 2001, America has seen a recession that began before the administration was really up and running, the worst terror attacks in the history of the world, scandals that rocked the Fortune 500 companies and our financial markets, a war in Afghanistan, a war in Iraq, and the highest energy prices in recent memory.

We have faced enormous economic challenges that should have devastated the United States; but, instead, we have seen 4 years of economic growth, the best housing market in American history, all more evidence that tax re-

lief benefits the economy. And getting the government off the backs of the taxpayers actually helps our economic engine.

The 2001 tax cuts and the 2003 cuts on capital gains and dividends have been the linchpin to our economic rebound. Federal tax receipts are up this year. State tax receipts are up this year. The economy is turning around, and we have reduced the deficit by \$100 billion this year alone, all the work of tax relief and tight budgets, what we as Republicans believe, what we are fighting for, and they work.

TRUTH, TRUST, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, truth, trust, and accountability should be the defining characteristics of the American Presidency.

President Bush's press secretary, in October of 2003, Scott McClellan, told the White House press corps and, through them, the world at large that Karl Rove and two other high-level administration officials had assured him that they were not involved in outing CIA covert agent Valeria Plame. He said that unequivocally.

Now we find that Karl Rove has sat back in timid silence while he has watched two reporters go through the costly, torturous experience of legal prosecution, all to protect his identity.

Mr. Speaker, the 41st President of the United States, George Bush, for whom the CIA headquarters is named, said that what Karl Rove did was an act of treason. Mr. Speaker, it is time to hear from the President of the United States.

STOPPING THE SPREAD OF TERROR

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the pledge made by Prime Minister Tony Blair. He said that we must "defeat terror and emerge from this horror with our values, our way of life, our tolerance and respect for others undiminished." I support that pledge.

The attacks on London show that the war on terror is not over, nor is it confined to a specific geographical domain. Securing our homeland is only one facet of the war. Spreading democracy in the savage lands where terrorism is allowed to propagate is another.

In the face of terrorism, a united front is one of the strongest weapons. A terrorist network that believes a nation so tested will fold under pressure of a few horrific acts may capture its attention, but will not achieve its submission. The terrorists who attacked Great Britain have underestimated the

resolve of an alliance that shares the ideals of freedom and democracy.

Those of us who thought the threat of terrorism receded with time now look no further than the horror visited on our closest allies. Complacency only allows the waves of terror crashing over the Western World to cause erosion. None of us in either country should be content to live under this constant threat. We must instead insure ourselves against such terror by allowing democracy to spread and flourish.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, talk is cheap, but health care is very expensive; and for the last 5 years, the Bush administration has offered our veterans empty rhetoric while denying them access to needed health care.

As veterans groups and Democrats fought to increase the veterans budget for the last 3 years, the Republican majority and the White House have been in deep denial. But I get weekly reports, and I bet you do too, from my veterans rep who tells me that people's treatment has been delayed, denied, people who cannot even get in the door for 6 months.

Now, 2 weeks ago, the administration admitted, well, I guess we need another \$1 billion for health care for veterans this year. Today they said it is \$3 billion more; but they say, oh, you know, we just could not have known, we could not have anticipated there would be veterans coming home from Iraq or Afghanistan who are wounded and injured and need services. They did not know there was a war going on. And they also said they could not anticipate the aging of the World War II and Korean veterans. They did not build that into the budget. They just did not know.

But they had a chairman on that side for a couple of years who told us he did know. He told us we needed more money, and they fired him from that job. At least a few Republicans are standing up for what is right.

TIME FOR KARL ROVE TO COME CLEAN

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I guess the Republican leadership is now condoning Karl Rove's behavior, but think about what the previous President Bush said about this.

On September 30, 2003, and I am quoting President Bush, this is the current President Bush, "If there is a leak out of my administration, I want to know who it is, and if the person violated the law, the person will be taken care of."

Well, that was nice talk then, but now it appears that it was all talk. The